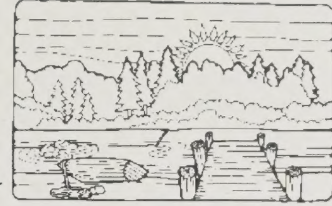


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ALASKA People



March/April 1998

Sourdough Years About to Come to End:

Project Engineer Relives History of Sourdough Creek Project



by Cheryl Rolland

existing roadways, trails and campsites, with an emphasis on improving accessibility. Under an interagency agreement with the U.S. Forest Service, Chugach National Forest, 30 interpretive panels will be installed this summer. These panels rival those at any other BLM facility and add a nice finishing touch to the campground.

Planning for the improvements was underway when I came to Alaska in 1987. At that time I

worked with resources landscape architect Kent Biddulph and Glennallen District outdoor recreation planner Larry Kajdan. We finalized the Project Site Plan and I wrote budget requests over the years. Two million dollars were received from '91 to '93 for construction. Roger Evans (Engineering, Fairbanks) and John Miller (Engineering, Anchorage), helped prepare designs for the construction contracts throughout the years. Lydia Creager, a structural

(continued on page 2)

Growing pains are coming to an end. Final improvements are scheduled this summer for the Sourdough Creek campground. Prior to these improvements, the campground was quite small with eight campsites and an unimproved boat launch area. Now it has 42 campsites, parking for over 100 vehicles, a concrete boat ramp, 3,200 feet of accessible trails, and numerous accessible structures, including toilet buildings, a group shelter, a fishing deck and four fishing ramps.

The 1998 construction contract will add another 500 feet of accessible trails, storage tanks for drinking water, and utilities for the host campsite. The contract will also include improvements to the

Behind the NPR-A Planning Scene

by Sharon Wilson



Anne Morkill

What happens when a wildlife biologist steps out of her comfort zone of animal inventories and studies, and volunteers for a major resource planning project?

A wildlife biologist for 15 years, Anne Morkill works on the Northern District Office's Northwest Team. Public participation and alternative dispute resolution processes have always interested her. She had been honing her facilitation skills and learning more about the BLM planning process when the NPR-A project came

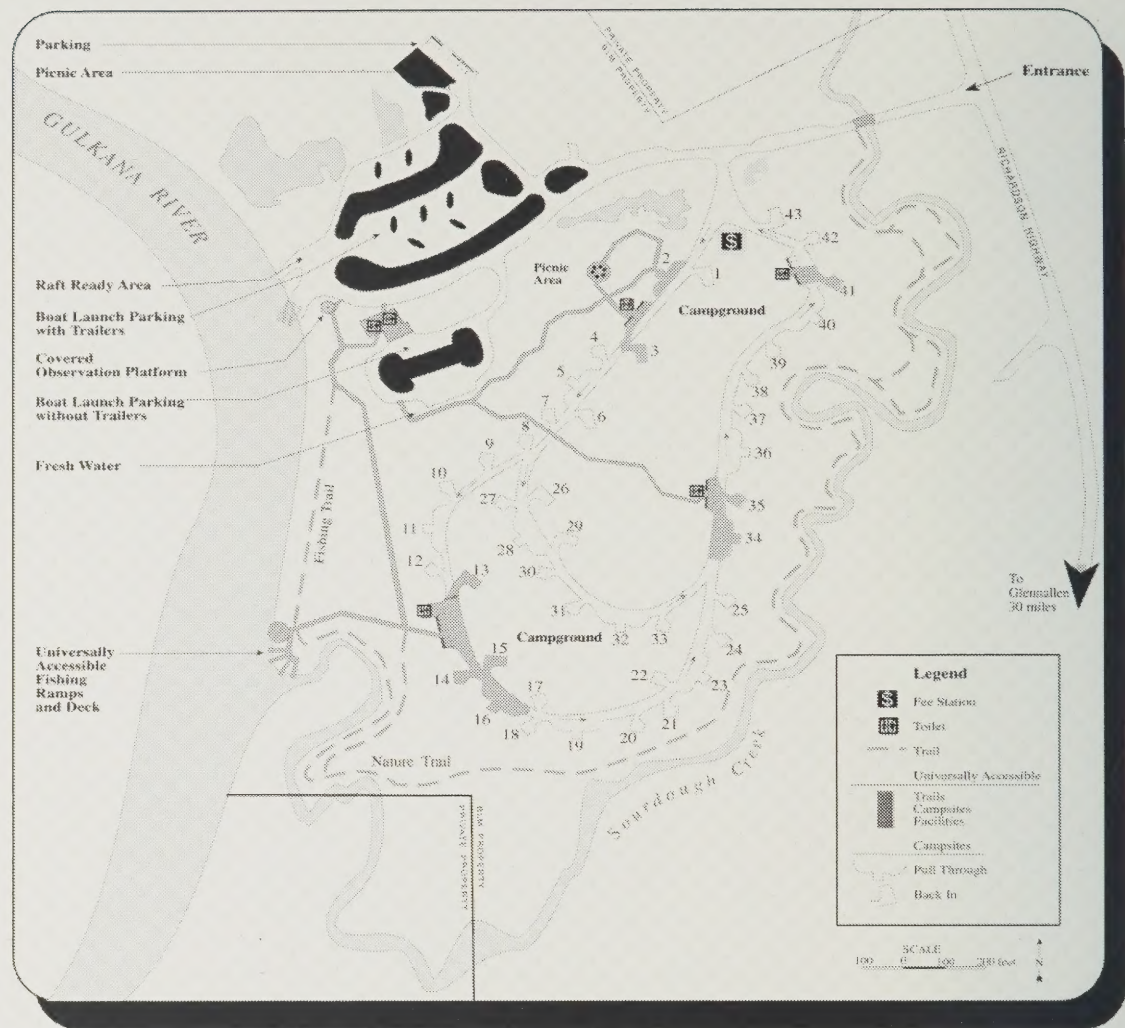
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Sourdough Creek Campground

Mile 147.5 on
Richardson Hwy.
235 miles from
Anchorage
215 miles from
Fairbanks

Recreational Features/Facts

- 42 campsites
- 100 parking spaces
- accessible trails
- boat ramp
- Campground has excellent fishing because of its location on the confluence of the Gulkana River.
- Campground is crowded during the peaks of salmon runs.
- The campground is take-out point for a popular 50-mile river float trip from Paxson Lake.



continued from front page

engineer from our Denver office also designed a couple of the major structures. In the meantime, Kent Biddolph moved and Larry Kajdan retired. Later, outdoor recreation planner Kathy Liska became my primary contact at the Glennallen Office, and Marcia Butorac my contact for the interpretive panels.

Designs for this project were very challenging (and not in a good way). The site has possibly the worst subsurface conditions possible for construction (permafrost on the verge of melting, and soils subject to frost heave). Additionally, a primary focus of the project was accessibility for persons with disabilities, which requires firm surfaces and tight tolerances on grades. It doesn't take an engineer to figure out the

conflicts we experienced. The additional challenge was trying to make the most of a limited budget—to provide the most needed features with the money available.

For the last few years I have grown increasingly anxious for this project to be over so I can move on to something new. Friends have noticed that I'm losing my sense of humor—their jokes about me trying to retire on this project aren't nearly as funny any more. However, last summer I was at the campground on a gorgeous day (sunny, no bugs) walking around inspecting and taking measurements. I remembered a few years ago when I was plodding around through the same area, on wet spongy ground with no roads or trails to walk on, carrying my survey gear. On days like that, I

feel a great deal of sentimentality for the place and all the people I've worked with. I thought at the time how nice it would be to follow a project through all phases. Most engineers long for this, but in most agencies and in the private sector, it doesn't happen. I'm glad to have had that experience.

To summarize my memories of "The Sourdough Years"—there were some very challenging times that I wouldn't want to go through again, but I guess I can call them "character building" times. There have also been many good times and special memories—more of them than the character building times.

Cheryl Rolland is a civil engineer in the Branch of Engineering, Division of Support Services at the Campbell Tract Facility in Anchorage.

Employee Profile

Kamilah Rasheed says she's pretty much the same person now as she was as a kid growing up in Oakland, CA, focused and determined to do things her way. "It caused me a lot of problems in elementary school," she says with a smile.

Working in a federal youth employment program whetted her appetite enough so that after high school she got a summer job working for the Elmendorf AFB hospital managing in-patient records. "I was given so much responsibility and it was such a good experience that I decided to seek a career in the federal sector."

She soon tired of the rules-laden environment of the Air Force and a job with the Internal Revenue Service was too dangerous. "Many of the people I helped with their tax forms were so hostile towards the IRS."

In 1979, she came to BLM as a land law examiner, a job she truly loved. "I learned the methodology of research and analysis. She says the job prepares a person for many fields—consulting, title research, land specialties.

Now as a management analyst, she says, "I administer the statewide evaluation program, tabulate and analyze statistical data, conduct customer research, coordinate Government Accounting Office (GAO)/Office of Inspector General (OIG) audit activities and coordinate organizational restructures."

How long have you lived in Alaska? 29 years.

What do you enjoy most about your job? I enjoy research and analysis . . . and it's what I am good at. I especially enjoy the fact that my job is unique within our organization and I supervise no one.

What is the last book you've read (or currently reading)? Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil by John Berendt. It's about some wonderfully colorful characters who lived in and around Savannah, Georgia during the early 1980s.

What is your idea of a good time? I love the night life and big, loud, highly interactive parties.

What was your favorite job? I am currently in the job I have enjoyed the most.

If you had one year to live, what would you do? First of all, no medical doctor can give that sentence and have me believe it. They are not All Knowing. But if, for some reason I believed this were true, I would probably spend the time touching and helping to heal people throughout the world.

What is your favorite place? Absolutely, here and now. . .



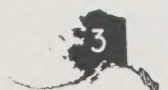
Kamilah Rasheed Management Analyst

Name one thing which people would be surprised to know about you? I enjoy working with the healing arts, and sharing what I know with others to enhance their human experience. I believe we, as humans, have only scratched the surface of knowledge of what we must do to maintain a healthy mind, body and spirit.

What does your "ultimate meal" consist of? Baked salmon (cooked to perfection), garlic mashed potatoes, steamed vegetables and tossed salad. . . followed later by fresh uncontaminated water.

What bad habit would you like to break? Taking on too much . . . trying to do too many things.

What is the most important thing you've learned since working for the BLM? That often times people would prefer you tell them what it is they want to hear, rather than you tell them the truth as you perceive it to be.



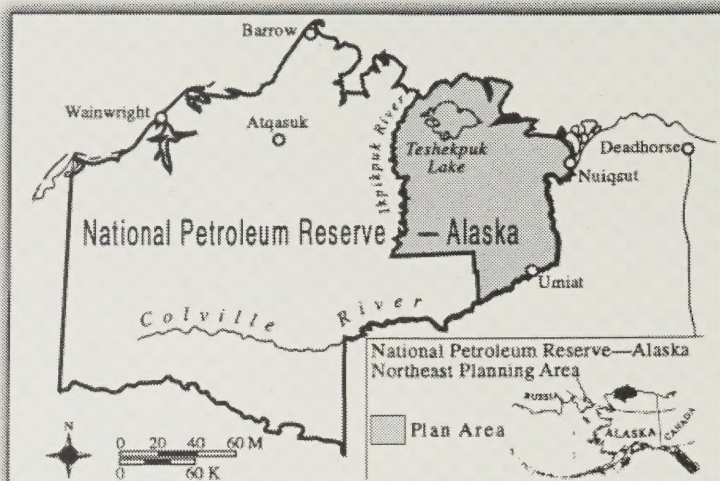
NPR-A story *continued from front page*

along.

She realized it would be a good opportunity for her to use these skills when she became a member of the interdisciplinary team for the 4.6-million-acre Northeast Planning Area of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska. But she had no idea of the challenges to come.

Morkill coordinated logistics and facilitated public comments and discussions at scoping meetings. She developed an issues matrix used by the planning team to identify preliminary options of alternatives based on public input. She also developed a strong sense of the traditional and contemporary needs of the Inupiat people of the North Slope as she coordinated village meetings and a subsistence workshop. Morkill provided information to the local people, and ensured questions were answered.

Her first lesson in VIP trips came



when she assisted in coordinating a visit by the Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt and his staff to Alaska to meet the people of the North Slope and to the NPR-A planning area. "I never thought I would be able to organize trips and meetings that were this complicated," Morkill said. "At the time, it was pretty hectic. But now I realize what a unique opportunity it was for me."

Morkill found that the NPR-A project robbed valuable time from scheduled wildlife projects. She sought help from other wildlife biologists, squeezed in some fieldwork in between NPR-A meetings, and put other projects on hold.

But Morkill recommends that others try new opportunities when presented. "It gives you a broader perspective of what the BLM does as an agency. I now have a greater appreciation for other resource programs, of interagency coordination, and of the public participation process," she says.

"My reward for this project? A letter of commendation from the North Slope Borough and

recognition by BLM managers for my professionalism and cultural sensitivity in working with the Inupiat people. That has given me the self-confidence to continue working as a facilitator in resource disputes in Alaska that involve diverse publics."

Morkill is taking an evening course in Environmental Mediation at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, while also planning wildlife projects for the upcoming field season.

Sharon Wilson is the lead public affairs officer for the Northern District in Fairbanks.

Health

Cancer and Diet

A major report on diet and cancer had 15 medical experts from around the world review 4,500 studies on cancer and nutrition. They concluded 30% to 40% of all cancers could be prevented if people changed their eating habits and lifestyles.

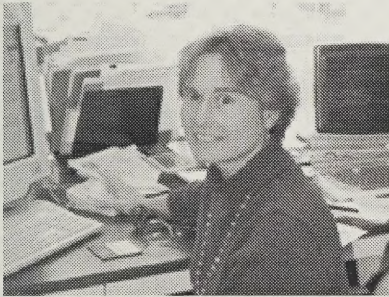
Researchers' Advice

- eat a plant-based diet (reduce intake of red meat; eat more legumes/whole grains; eat at least five servings of fruits and vegetables a day).
- eat less sugar, salt, and processed/canned foods.
- avoid/limit alcohol. (One drink a day increases risk of breast cancer in women; more than one to two drinks a day increases the cancer risks for both men and women.)
- maintain a lean body weight throughout life; don't gain more than 11 pounds during adulthood.
- get some brisk exercise every day.

Source: World Cancer Research Fund, American Institute for Cancer Research

Cool News

New External Affairs Chief. Anne Jeffery is on board this month as the new chief of External Affairs. She was the public affairs officer for the Chugach National Forest in Anchorage for the past six years. Jeffery previously worked for BLM in the New Mexico State Office as an audio visual specialist and says she's happy to return to the BLM fold.



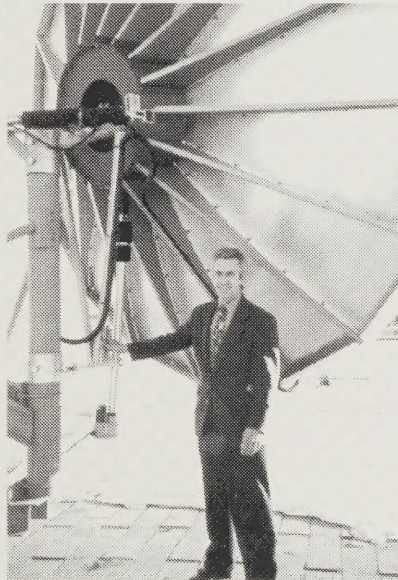
Anne Jeffery

Twelve Plans to Guide Conveyance Activities. Joe Labay, Craig Frichtl and Bob Lloyd are working with Native communities, and State and federal land managers to create 12 strategic management plans. Based on the boundaries of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) regions, these plans identify conveyance priorities for the ANCSA, State and Native allotment programs.

Bristol Bay Native Corporation (BBNC), Northwest Arctic Native Association and Arctic Slope Regional Corporation representatives have already been consulted. BBNC's draft plan is complete and most of the plans should be complete by November 1998. Work will be scheduled after all twelve plans are done.

Specialist Coming from New Mexico. Outdoor recreation specialist Bill Overbough reports to the Resources staff this June.

Satellite Downlinks Now Available. Recently, has become possible to participate in the distance learning program conducted by the Phoenix Training Center or watch a live broadcast of our director thanks to the installation of satellite downlink equipment at the Anchorage and Glennallen field offices, the Alaska Fire Service and Alaska State Office. The Phoenix Training Center broadcasts over C and ku bands which are received by satellite antennae. **Cliff Cullings** helped develop the plan to establish these satellite downlinks.



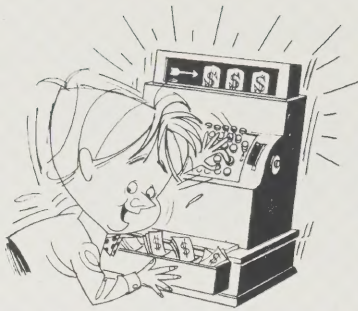
Cliff Cullings on top of the Anchorage Federal Building with steerable antenna.

BLM Does Its Part with Fisheries Subsistence Hearings. BLM just finished conducting its share of hearings on proposed changes to regulations on subsistence fishing on federal lands. The proposed regulations would change the scope of federal management to include federally reserved navigable waters

and watersheds (within national parks, national forests, wild and scenic rivers and refuges). Since January more than 41 meetings were conducted throughout Alaska by the BLM, Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service. **Jeff Denton, Dave Yokel, and Peggy Fox** and conducted BLM's hearings with the assistance of **Sharon Wilson and Danielle Allen.**



Dennis Evenson is Remembered by Field Surveys. When Dennis Evenson died at age 35 last fall of a heart attack, field surveys was shocked that someone so young and so loved could be dead. **John Pex** says, "I never heard anyone say a bad word about him. Everyone liked him." Evenson began working for surveys during the summer of 1994 and came up every summer to survey. The rest of the year he'd attend college at the Oregon Institute of Technology. His dream was to become a permanent surveyor with the BLM. To honor his memory, field surveys collected money and had two plaques made; one going to his parents and the other going to OIT.



Do You Know Your Net Worth?

by Scott Guyer

It's that time again! As of January, you should have all your tax statements. It's time to do your paper work. It's also a good time to calculate your net worth, too.

Your what?? Your net worth is a simple calculation that you should do every year. It provides a benchmark for tracking your finances over the past year. Get forms from your bank, accountant or ask a financial advisor to help you with this calculation. If you'd do it yourself, the calculation is simple: **assets - liabilities = net worth.** You will probably want to tie your net worth calculation to the calendar year.

So what does your net worth really tell you? It may not reflect the money you make (income), but it certainly reflects how your money is spent, saved and invested. A

person who is frugal and tends to save may have a net worth many times his/her annual salary. Likewise a spender may have a net worth only one or two times his/her annual salary. Much of a person's worth may be tied up in real estate, not stocks, mutual funds and retirement assets.

Many people think that most millionaires come from wealthy families and inherit their wealth, are CEO's of large corporations, or sports professionals. Research shows that most millionaires achieved this status on their own. They are normally small business owners and professionals, but the key to their wealth is that they live below their means. If they earn \$100,000 per year, they live as though they made \$80,000, and the other \$20,000 is put away in savings and investments. These millionaires live in middle-class neighborhoods, buy used cars and

send their children to public schools.

Many government workers probably think becoming a millionaire is a just a pipe dream. But it's very possible that some government workers, even with their modest paychecks, will retire with more than a million dollars in their thrift savings plan. Becoming a millionaire may not be your goal or within your realm of possibility, but tracking your net worth will show your progress. For most people, having a comfortable nest egg at retirement is a desirable goal. So, you think being frugal isn't very fun? You don't have to be a millionaire to be happy. But those who have saved and invested their way to a comfortable retirement find contentment and satisfaction in the journey and the reward.

Scott Guyer is a biologist with the branch of Mapping Sciences, Division of Cadastral Survey.

Letter to the Editor

This letter (edited for brevity) commends former BLM Anchorage District Manager Jim Scott and his wife Elva.

by Ed "Moose" Zaidlicz

Reflecting over BLM's growth and development, I am struck by the creative, dynamic employees and their spouses. Their dedication to the public interest has often been unrecognized. A good example are Jim and Elva Scott in John McPhee's best seller about Alaska, *Coming Into the Country*.

I met Jim in 1950 at his BLM duty station in Homer, Alaska. He was a

rugged outdoorsman with a creative imagination, bulldog tenacity and boundless energy. Anyone who knew Big Jim Scott never questioned his unwavering commitment to natural resource management in the ultimate public interest.

He and Elva, and their three children lived in a tarpaper cabin. Elva, with degrees in nursing and education, taught their children and assumed Jim's duties of radio communication when he was frequently away on extended fire duty. She was the only registered nurse on the west side of the peninsula, and was sought by ailing citizens for miles around. Among Elva's many notable public efforts were establishing the Anchorage

School District health program.

Over the years Jim advanced through the ranks and made many duty station moves.

Upon Jim's BLM retirement, they moved to Eagle, Alaska where they took their resourcefulness and community-spirit. Both served as mayor. Elva helped form the Eagle Historical Society and Museum and recently wrote and published the book *Jewel on the Yukon - Eagle City*.

Jim and Elva are truly living legends in public service.

Ed Zaidlicz is a former BLM Montana State Director. His son Mike Zaidlicz works at the Anchorage Field Office as the Iditarod Trail Coordinator.



Comings

(information is incomplete)

Po Burleigh, AARIMS programmer, Div. of Resources (contract employee)

Jacque Frair, mapping specialist, Div. of Resources (contract employee)

Anne Jeffrey, chief, External Affairs

Rich Johns, procurement technician, Division of Support Services

Maria Luis, procurement contract specialist, Div. of Support Services

Questions about Parking?

by Teresa McPherson

The Carpool Committee will be sending all Anchorage Federal Building employees parking procedure/criteria guidelines. Here's an abbreviated version:

For an employee to secure a parking space at the Federal Building. There must be—

- a carpool is two or more persons
- at least one person must be a permanent, full-time BLM employee
- all carpool members must live outside a one-mile radius of the AFOB

Criteria used to rank the priority order of employees who acquire spaces:

Employment status - # of BLM employees in carpool, other AFOB employees and non-AFOB persons (can include non-BLM or non-federal employees, but you receive fewer points)

Distance traveled to work

Service comp date

Besides regular carpool slots, a limited number of parking spaces are reserved for handicapped employees, executive parking, and GSA fleet service vehicles.



Transition

Karen Collie, realty specialist, Anchorage Field Office (promotion)

Tom Deiling, supv. land surveyor, Policy Interpretation & Guidance Section to Branch of Spatial Records, Div. of Cadastral Survey

Lorri Denton, realty specialist, Anchorage Field Office (promotion)

Larry Evans, branch chief, Branch of Field Surveys to Policy Interpretation & Guidance Section, Div. of Cadastral Survey

Dan Johnson, branch chief, Branch of Spatial Records to Branch of Field Surveys, Div. of Cadastral Survey

Bob Lloyd, teams administrator, Anchorage Field Office to Div. of Conveyance Management (detail)

Mike Rose, safety & occ. health specialist, Branch of Field & Office Services to Division of Support Services

Lois Simenson, records specialist, Branch of Records & Data Administration to Joint Pipeline Office (detail)

Kathy Stubbs, realty specialist, Anchorage Field Office (promotion)

Goings

James Borkowski, Economist, Anchorage Field Office (retired)

Bruce Ogonowski, supv. land surveyor, Div. of Cadastral Survey (resigned)

Dee Ritchie, district manager, Northern District (retired)

Gary Sherman, mining engineer, Div. of Lands, Minerals & Resources (resigned)

Shirley Spurlock, land law assistant, Div. of Conveyance Management (resigned)

Wayne Weber, misc. document examiner, Div. of Cadastral Survey (retired)

Hugh Wolfe, photolithographer, Div. of Cadastral Survey (resigned)



What is your parking situation? why or when does parking become an issue for employees working at the Anchorage Federal Building?



Glenn Elliott
Land Law Examiner
Div. Conveyance Mgmt.

I carpool and have an outside space. This is a vast improvement from the days when I needed a parking permit for both work and the University. Many times I couldn't afford a permit so I got to know every free parking space around. I think a major issue that will soon be a big blip on the radar screen has to do with the construction of this new hotel right across the street and no visible parking space improvements. Something has got to give and I have a feeling it will be anyone around the hotel. It comes with the territory of unchecked development and what goes for urban planning around here. Apparently, someone has been asleep at the wheel.

To avoid further unnecessary hostilities, I plan to be dusting off my bike REAL soon.



Peggy Fox
Resource Grp. Administrator
Div. of Lands, Minerals, & Resources

I pay for parking in a lot run by Dimond Parking next to the Hub Bar.

Parking is expensive downtown and money is always an issue! With increased development downtown, our rates go up as lots become building sites. I know other people have to deal with the same issue, so I don't expect special treatment just because I'm a federal employee. I still have alternatives, like the bus, biking when street conditions allow, and carpooling (least feasible), so I have choices.

Another issue is reasonable parking rates come at some risk to personal safety and/or personal property ...such as next to the Hub Bar. Again this is a personal choice and a common problem, not specific to federal employees.



Greg Balen
Geologist
Div. of Cadastral Survey

Parking for me is not a big problem. I have a pretty good idea where I will park on any given morning. I don't pay to park, so I am looking for free spaces. Currently, I park and walk four to five blocks.

Parking is an issue because people want to park close by and not have to pay too much. It is the same story at the grocery store or the mall where people drive around, or sit and wait for a space close to the entrance.

It would be nice if our employer provided more parking, but, I don't believe that an employer is responsible to provide free parking for every employee. There are a limited number of spaces in the garage and in the lot across C Street. This demonstrates a reasonable effort to accommodate employees' parking needs, and promotes car pooling.



Pam Eldridge
Office Auto. Assistant
Div. of Conveyance Mgt.

My husband and I carpool and have an outside single parking space. We are also caregivers to my father which requires us to sometimes arrive or leave work at irregular times.

I am grateful for the assigned parking but its location creates problems. It is close to the building and the public thinks it's visitor parking.

I recently learned that BLM leases their parking spaces from GSA. My suggestion is that BLM lease a parking lot from Diamond or Central Parking. It could be the same number of spaces, same parking rules, only the parking location would change. This would free up the GSA lot for desperately needed visitor parking and minimize the use of employee reserved parking by unauthorized users. Also, BLM might save money leasing from a private lot.

Alaska People

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